

Strategic Thinking for Distributed Generation

Where Are We Now & Where Should We Be Going?

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DG is growing! Will it take over?

- So far, DG has been growing, but slowly
- Are DG applications moving faster through the system?
- A few horror stories continue to be told
- What is the real picture?



Snapshot of SCE DG Applications Since Jan 2001

Status	No. Applic.	Megawatts	Largest	Comments
1: Eng. Review	25	228.5	97, 67, 19, 10	Largest in late 01, 02
2. Review Complete	3	9.1	6	All over the map
3. Contract to Customer	20	36.2	3.5	All over the map
4. Contract Signed	4	10.3	10	3 to 9 months
5. Approved-On Line	10	33.2	12	Average 4 months, some < 2 wks!



Technology Issues

- The Companies offering DG are Changing: New players are entering and others are leaving
- Microturbine deployments are later than projected but more rapid than other technologies
- Fuel Cells continue to have public policy support but are not yet commonplace
- IC engines and large gas turbines continue to be the workhorses of the industry
- PV does well with hefty supports but is not yet too cheap to meter



SCE DG Applications Technology Split

Technology	Number	Megawatts	Comments
Diesel Engines	10	81	Emergency Backup
IC Engines Nat Gas	18	30	Generally Cogen
Combustion Turbines	4	194	MOAG
Microturbines	16	3	Mixed bag
Fuel Cells	1	0.23	Cogen



Drivers: Why Are People Installing DG?

- Emergency Backup
- Cogen
- Primary Generation
- Consume Free Fuel
- Net Metering and Self-Generation Programs
- NOx abatement
- PM10 abatement



What About DG's High-Value Grid Benefits?

- PG&E had the Kerman Substation PV study
- SCE had Solar Neighborhoods
- No evidence that DG is now being installed to gain these benefits
- The primary reasons for today's DG appear to be energy security and energy savings
- Public Policy support is a close second



- Rule 21 was revised and is being improved as we speak; it has proven reasonably effective so far
- IEEE 1547 continues to be hotly debated by people of goodwill
- The barriers are coming down, partly because of the new Rule but mostly because of improved communications resulting from the dialog
- DG is high on policy maker's lists. DOE has a DER Division, USAID is pushing DG globally, several states have legislation supporting DG
- Environmentalists seem to like DG
- It is not intuitively obvious why DG is so popular



What Strategies Should be Pursued?

- Continue to improve Rule 21, especially the effort to certify Interconnection systems
- Level the playing field for various technologies...rather than specify supports for just fuel cells or solar, specify emissions requirements and let the technologies compete to meet them
- Support consumption of damaging emissions for generating power (such as the SCAQMD's recent purchase of microturbines to reduce NOx from flares or PM10 from Diesels)
- Continue to provide incentives to buy down the cost of promising but clean technologies
- Bring the Utilities inside the tent by giving them an incentive to support DG